

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fixing device in an image forming apparatus, comprising:
a pressure belt that holds a recording medium by electrostatic force and carries the recording medium, the recording medium having a
5 toner image on a surface that is not in contact with the pressure belt;
and
a fixing belt that fixes the toner image on the recording medium that is held by the pressure belt.
- 10 2. The fixing device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a heating unit that heats the toner image on the recording medium while the fixing belt fixes the toner.
3. The fixing device according to claim 1, further comprising:
15 a charging unit that electrically charges the pressure belt before the recording medium makes a contact with the pressure belt.
4. The fixing device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a charging unit that electrically charges a surface of the
20 pressure belt that makes a contact with the recording medium.
5. The fixing device according to claim 3, wherein the charging unit is an electric charger.
- 25 6. The fixing device according to claim 5, wherein the electric

charger is in the form of a roller.

7. The fixing device according to claim 5, wherein the electric charger is in the form of a brush.

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8. The fixing device according to claim 3, wherein the charging unit alternately charges portions of the pressure belt to positive and negative charge.

10 9. The fixing device according to claim 3, wherein
a surface of the pressure belt that is charged by the charging unit is provided with a coating of an electric non-conductive material.

10. The fixing device according to claim 1, further comprising a
15 neutralizing unit that neutralizes the electric charge on the pressure belt and the recording medium after toner image has been fixed to the recording medium.

11. The fixing device according to claim 10, wherein the neutralizing
20 unit is a neutralizing charger that applies an alternating voltage to the recording medium to eliminate neutralizes the electric charge.

12. The fixing device according to claim 10, wherein the neutralizing unit is in the form of a brush.

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13. The fixing device according to claim 1, wherein
the pressure belt is configured to extend longer than the fixing
belt in a direction of dispatch of the recording medium.
- 5 14. The fixing device according to claim 13, wherein
the pressure belt tightly holds the recording medium.
15. The fixing device according to claim 1, wherein
the fixing belt makes a contact with the toner image on the
10 recording medium and the pressure belt does not make a contact with
the toner image on the recording medium.
16. The fixing device according to claim 1, wherein
the pressure belt in an endless belt and is rotatably suspended
15 over a plurality of rollers.
17. The fixing device according to claim 1, wherein
the fixing belt in an endless belt and is rotatably suspended over
a plurality of rollers.
- 20 18. An image forming apparatus comprising a fixing device, the
fixing device including
a pressure belt that holds a recording medium by electrostatic
force and carries the recording medium, the recording medium having a
25 toner image on a surface that is not in contact with the endless

pressure belt; and

a fixing belt that fixes the toner image on the recording medium that is held by the pressure belt.